Executive Summary

SEPA undertook air quality monitoring for particulate matter in response to concerns regarding the flaring event at Exxon Mobil’s Fife Ethylene Plant on 22 April 2019. The results gave no cause for concern and were well below the UK 24 hour air quality standard for fine particulates (PM10).

Overview of Monitoring Approach and Results

SEPA undertook air quality monitoring for particulate matter in response to concerns regarding the flaring event at Exxon Mobil’s Fife Ethylene Plant. Measurements were recorded between 1100 and 1500 on 22 April 2019.

Copeland Crescent, Cowdenbeath was chosen as a suitable location following modelled output from the Met Office, which provides information on forecast wind direction and where the plume may potentially reach ground level. Whilst it is someway from the Mossmorran site, this monitoring site was situated near to local communities.

The graph below shows the measured data over the monitoring period for *Particulate Matter (PM) 10 particles and PM2.5 particles. These are compared against the UK air quality standard for PM10, which is a 24hr air quality standard of 50 μg/m³. Monitoring results during this period were well below this ambient air quality standard.

- Particulate Matter definition: PM10 equates to particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 μm, PM2.5 particles less than 2.5 μm, etc. For further information please see Air Quality in Scotland